

THE TURKISH ATROCITIES
IN ASIA MINOR AND THE PONTUS

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Speech of. H. E. Mr. G. BALTAZZI

(Minister for Foreign Affairs)

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

One year ago, I said in the course of a discussion that took place in this National Assembly regarding the anti-Greek persecutions in Turkey, that these persecutions could only be compared to those that were carried out by the Turks at the time of the outbreak of the Greek insurrection. Unhappily the horrors and the crimes committed, and which have been revealed since that time, surpass in number and in the area covered all previous atrocities.

The idea which inspires all these crimes leaves no room for doubt. It is the systematic extermination of all Greeks and all Christians, in the countries placed under the direct administration of the Turkish Authorities.

In the request of my Honorable Colleagues, I have the honour to bring before this Assembly all relative information in our possession, and further information derived from foreign witnesses, upon the truth of which you may with all safety rely. This information portrays

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THIRD NATIONAL ASSEMBLY 31 MAI 1922

SHORTHAND REPORT OF SPEECH

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One year ago, I said in the course of a discussion that took place in this National Assembly regarding the anti-Greek persecutions in Turkey, that these persecutions could only be compared to those that were carried out by the Turks at the time of the outbreak of the Greek insurrection. Unhappily the horrors and the crimes committed, and which have been revealed since last year, surpass in number and in the area covered all previous atrocities.

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By the request of my Honourable Colleagues, I have the honour to bring before this Assembly all relative information in our possession, and further information derived from foreign witnesses, upon the truth of which you may with all safety rely. This information portrays

a picture only dimly outlining the horrible situation from all points of view which has been created in the provinces that remain under the Ottoman Empire, where side by side with Turks there also lives a Christian population.

But whilst the last chapters of the awful story is still being written regarding the Christians in Anatolia and I have taken this sentence from the report of an American, Mr Yowell—the conscience of the civilised world is in revolt against the horrors of these massacres, I think it my duty to make known to this Assembly what the Pope, himself, in speaking to the Priests united in the Vatican for the Eucharistical Congress, in recalling that it was the anniversary of the departure of the fleet of the Christian Powers who fought at Lepanto, said :

«I am happy to see united here on this memorable anniversary of the departure of the Christian fleets who brought about the victory of Lepanto against the barbarian Mussulmans. You must address prayers to the All Highest for the Christians who are still fighting against the barbarians».

To the long martyrdom of the Christians in Anatolia there is now added a new series of victims imolated for assuring the realization of the aim pursued, that is, to change the complete ethnologic composition of the countries in which, for the most part, up to the present our religious fraternities were not in the minority.

I have the firm hope that, without distinction of race or of religion all here who have in their souls the ideals of civilisation and of justice will join in this protestation.

For and of that I have no doubt at all when they will have learnt all which has been done, and is still being done, even the civilised correligionists of the guilty, yes, even their correligionists no matter in what country they live, will hurry to come in the spirit of human solidarity to offer

their help in the common fight with a view to saving the Christians which still remain. And I hope it more ever seeing that the mania of extermination which incites the Turks to massacre has not been lessened by a religious community-example, the Circassians-neither by the community of race when it at all times concerns the Turks opposing Kemal. To this the thousands of Turks, who at the time of the evacuation of Ismid, followed the Greek troops to escape massacre, and who have found with us a home and all possible assistance, could bear witness.

In the districts of Tyreboli, of Kerassoude and of Ordu the famous Osman Agha, unhappily celebrated for his cruelties and sanguinary instincts, has assassinated a great many notable Greeks, from whom he at once took their money. Then in the month of July he had the male population of Kharpout and Elbistan transported. And, regarding the women, he had the most beautiful placed on one side to give to his friends in debauchery. The remainder, as well as the children, after having been deprived of all they had, died from hunger and suffering in his service. At Kerassoude, of the 14,000 Greeks there only now remains 4,000 women and children. All the others have died on the wayside.

In the districts of Fatza and Ouniah during the months of June, July, and August this same Osman Agha committed the same horrors as at Kerassoude. A little after the massacre of the male population the authorities received the order to expell all the women and children. The women who had no doubt of the sort that awaited them, imitated the example of the Virgins of Suli, and preferred to kill themselves with their children and their young brothers -they climbed up the rock of St Nicholas, near the coast, and after first having thrown these young martyrs down the chasm, they said a last goodbye to their beautiful homeland of Greece to fling themselves into eternity.

Here are now some precise facts. I quote from information regarding the persecutions and deportations committed after the month of August 1921 that is to say, since the last debate regarding the Anti Greek persecutions in Turkey.

A. — THE PONTUS

In the month of July 1921, the Turks have deported all the male population from the ages of 15 to 50 from the districts of Trebizonde, Sourmena, and Rizeh. On the journey the greater part of these were massacred. The remainder died from hunger and torture.

In the districts of Amissos (Samsoun), and Beefree, the work of extermination was carried out more persistently and more systematically. The population was deported in five convoys. The first consisted of 2000 men, the second of 1900, the third of 3000, the fourth of 500, and the fifth of 620. Near the village of Kavak, a distance of eight hours from Samsoun, whilst the deported descended the slope of the mountain, the Turkish guards who accompanied them opened a heavy fire and of the first convoy 580 were killed, and of the third convoy 800. The losses in the other convoys are not known. The survivors, only wrecks and human skeletons, after having been stripped of everything even their clothes, were taken to Malatia, Kharpout, and Elbistan, where the work of extermination was completed.

In the small locality of Kavak, the same horrors were experienced. Only one old man of 80 years of age managed to escape. At Havza they collected women and children near the river, and after killing them, their bodies were thrown into the water. The Greek villages in this particular area were burned. The inhabitants perished in flames. Eighteen young girls and women, newly wed,

chosen from the most beautiful, were distributed by Osman Agha to the chiefs of the bands of Turks, who after having for many days satisfied their passions, shut up all these unfortunate people in a house at Havza, where they burned them alive.

At Marzovan, Osman Agha and his companions, after having robbed the Christians of everything, set fire to the Greek and Armenian quarters. The scenes in this fire were terrible. The Turks guarded all exits, and killed and threw the bodies back into the flames again of all those who tried to escape. They did not spare women, old people, nor children. In another part of the town when the women and children were collected, it was a perfect debauchery. And during all these scenes the massacres continued, and the barbarians kept crying «Let them come now, the English or Americans, or your Christ even, to save you».

At Bafra, after having imposed heavy taxes on the male population of from 60 to 2000 Turkish Pounds per head, they transported them in July last, to a place not far from the town, where in the space of five days they killed more than 2000. The massacres finished, the Turks then ransacked the Greek houses and shops. The pillage continued four days. The women and children who remained, were deprived of everything; they did not even have any bread. Disease and starvation finished the work of the Brutes.

There is the official statistical table of the exterminations which are taking place in the Pontus.

Provinces	Communities	Churches	Schools	Population exterminated
DEVASTATED				
Amassia.	400	303	316	134.078
Néocésarée.	95	135	106	27.216
Trebizonde.	70	127	84	38.484
Chaldie.	145	182	152	61.582
Rhodopolis.	41	53	45	17.479
Colonia	74	74	55	21.448
Total	815	874	758	303.287

I wish you to note, gentlemen, that the extermination of the Christian populations is now done in broad daylight. The savagery of the Kemalists has invented a means more effective for the extermination of the Greeks. It is the famous tribunal of «Independence» (Istiklal mahkemeleri) which is nothing else but an official instrument serving to realise the complete extermination of the Greeks by the Turks. This famous tribunal still works today. They issue order in batches for the execution of people who comprise the élite of the Christian communities. I deal here with concrete and indisputable facts, admitted even by the Turks themselves.

Thus, the paper, «Ehali» (The people), appearing at Samsoun, in its edition of the 18th of September, 1921, (No 28) announces that the Tribunals of Independence have condemned to death by hanging three Greek Professors of the American college, Mersifoun Theoharidis, Charalam-

bos Yeorghiou, and Anastas. Symeon According to this same paper the following people were also condemned to be hanged: J. Teraoglou and Paraskevas Lambrou, besides 10 others.

The Turkish paper, «Elali», appearing at Samsoun, in its edition of the 19th of September, 1921, (No 134) writes: The Tribunals of Independence have condemned to death by hanging the Instructor, G. Papamarcou, of the Greek Secondary School at Samsoun, and 85 others of whom it gives the names, together with their families. They were the élite of the cultured and commercial Greek society in Samsoun.

The Turkish paper «Boudjak», appearing at Ordou, in its edition of the 19th of September, 1921, (No 70) announces that the Tribunals of Independence have condemned to death Balbanidis, a lawyer, Anast. Aslidis, Jordanis, Lazarakis, and Christo Ioannou.

The Turkish paper «Ehale», of the 25th of September 1921, (No 31) in its list of Greek notables condemned to death by the tribunals of Independence gives amongst others the following names. The Archimadrite Platon Aivazides, Vicar of the Metropolitan. Jordannis Cademoghlou, representing the Metropolitan at Kavak. Andre Tchinoxoglou secretary of the Metropole. Basile Papadopoulos, owner of the newspaper, «Diogenes». Laurent Ressioghlou, lawyer, Paul Papadopoulos, department Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Const. Constantinidis, and over 100 others, amongst whom were Doctors, Lawyers, Chemists, Professors, Bankers, etc, all named with their families.

The following people have been condemned to death. Their goods have also been confiscated.

The Metropolitan of Amassia, H. G. Germano Caravanghelis. Mr Theodore Arzoghlu, Ancient Deputy of the Turkish Parliament. Symeonaki Ihtiaroghlou. Vekaris, and 20 Lawyers and Doctors.

The execution took place of the greater number of these at the same time on Wednesday, the 21st of September, on the Public place of Anasoia. A long line of 72 Greek martyrs were conducted to the place of torture to be sacrificed on the altar of their Greek fatherland. The first victim of this sacrifice, unique in this present century, was the Archimadrite Platon, vicar of the parish of Samsoun, an old man, who proudly walked with his head erect to the place of martyrdom, after having preached the words of the Saviour to his companions in misfortune. They were all hung in groups of 10. This execution, horrible to witness, lasted unto ten o'clock in the morning.

Professor Papamarcou. Mr Paul Papadopoulos, Departmental Director of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Mr Theohene Ekmekdjoghlu, an important merchant, who died in prison on the eve of the executions, were carried dead to the place of torture to be executed even after death.

The bodies were then transported in carts out of the village, and in a most profane manner were thrown into a large ditch full of dirt. The «butchers» broke the jaw-bones of their victims to take out their teeth and gold stoppings. The next day in the market place they sold the clothing of those who had been executed, even to the artificial feet of D. Demitriou, chemist, a present given him by Enver Pasha in recognition of services he had rendered to the Turkish army at Erzeroum.

At Ordou were hung Avram Tokanidis and Epaminondas Gregoriadis. The two churches of this town were occupied by the Turks and transformed into prisons.

H. Gr. the Bishop of Zile Euthymios, the Kavass of the Metropole, Kalapidis, and his son, Basile, as well as Mr. Andre Colare, Maritime agent, died in prison.

B.—DISTRICTS OF NICOMIDIA (ISMIT). NICAËA (IZNIK),
AND ADABAZAR

Now, gentlemen, let us turn our thoughts towards the historic province of Bithynie. In this region, Greeks and Christians of Yalova, Nicomedia, Nicaea, Biledjik, Bolou, Deustche, Adabazar, have all been executed. There remain only old marble and stones which are sufficient to prove that up to June last there had been there a great number of rich, powerful, and civilized Greeks.

When in the month of June last our troops of the sector Ismidt-Adabazar evacuated this region, so as to take part in the attack against Eski-Shehir, 60000 poor and rich Greeks, Armenians, Circassians, Albanians, and even Turks left with the Greek army. They fled, leaving fortunes of more than 1,000,000, having only one thought, that of saving their lives. The fear of the advancing Turk overshadowed all else. And the advancing Turks burnt and pillaged everything, leaving ruins everywhere. Nothing remains of the Christians of this region, who besides the Turks, comprised the populations of 50 towns and hamlets, as well as a great number of Circassians. The Greeks support today at their expense several thousands of Greeks, Circassians, and Armenians from these unfortunate regions, whilst 100000 human lives had been massacred previously in the most horrible fashion, or died in exile round the same regions of Bithynie, where their white bones show today as dumb witnesses of the awful horror of their fate. The towns of Nicaea, Lefke, Ortakeuy, Foudoukha, Carassou, Neochorion, Hendek, DUSDJE, Hadji Osman, Adabazar, and Ismidt, and 100 other towns, hamlets, and villages constitute now a dead country, in which you will not meet one solitary human being, where previ-

ously there were more than 160000 Greeks and Armenians.

«Our Lady» of Nicaea, this celebrated monument in the vaults of which was heard for the first time the creed of the christian faith, is no more than a ruin since last year. The same thing applies to the church of St. Pantaleon, the Patron Saint of Doctors. This tomb, on the place where according to religious tradition, the martyr was hung, has been wiped out, and the olive tree that was placed there has been uprooted.

In all the country of Nicaea, Lefke, Bilejik, Seuyud, Dustche, Akshehir, Carassou, Adabazar, Nicomedia, Yalova, a country double the size of the Peloponese, a country extremely rich and fruitful, a country of which the dynasty of the Christian population was remarkable, there now remains nothing. Yes, gentlemen, not one living soul remains of those who believed in our Christian faith.

To put it shortly. The extermination and the annihilation of the Christians and the Circasians in these immense territories were complete. They were carried out under the direction and command of superior Turkish Officers, through the direct orders of Kemal. These were, Djemal of Ismidt, and Hamid Bey of Karamoussal. Caimakam of Ghaïvel. Kiazim Bey of Kerassou. Major Kiazim Bey, the chief of Band Ghiaour Aly, and a large number of others. In comparison with this work the massacres of extermination of the Christians in the time of Nero appear as nothing. Certainly, it is the most horrible example of savagery that history has ever recorded.

D.--DISTRICT OF KUTAHIA

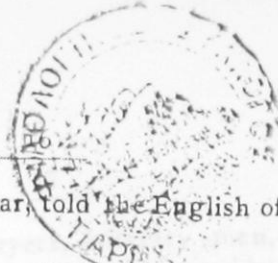
I must here bring to your notice, gentlemen, certain facts regarding the manner in which the Turks carried out their work of exterminating the Christians.

When in the month of July last the Greek troops entered Kutahia, they found themselves confronted with a strange spectacle. Whilst the Christians, women and children, who came to meet the liberating army were very well, the few men who accompanied them were pale, thin and fleshless, looking like men who had lived beneath the earth or in tombs. The Turks putting their plan of extermination into force had deported the male population. The few men that our soldiers had seen had managed to remain at Kutahia a year, living in ditches, pits and wells, and fed secretly by their parents.

At Sivrihissar, a town whose population had been up to the present composed for the most part of Armenians, it was found when army advanced last August towards the Sangarius that not a single Armenian remained there. All the Armenians, and they numbered thousands, had been deported, and had died in exile. Some days prior to the entrance of the Greek troops the Turks had arrested the few remaining Armenians, about 40, who had not been deported by reason of their influence, and they then drowned them in the Sangarius. It is to be noted here that the women and children of Sivrihissar, immediately after the occupation of the town by our army asked for the means of transport, and left their homes to fly to Eski-Shehir. They were afraid to remain in Sivrihissar even when our army was marching towards Angora.

D.—DISTRICT OF BROUSSA

On the 6th of August last Colonel Stover, of the British army, went to Adranos, to investigate into the atrocities that the Turks had committed in the district of Brussa. In the abandoned village of Tepouk an old man,



by the name of Achik Omar, told the English officer what had happened:

«Before the occupation of the district by the Greek army every eight or ten days there arrived at a spot nearly 57 kilometres on the Brussa-Adranos road a certain number of Christians accompanied by soldiers, whose task it was to prevent these unfortunate people having any contact with the inhabitants of the surrounding towns. Five or six days after we heard firing. The Christians were shot.»-and added the old man, Achik Omar.

«Attracted by the smell I went and found 15 to 20 bodies, from which I took a Fez and a few pencils.»

Colonel Stover asked Achik Omar to conduct him to the above mentioned spot. The old Turk proposed first of all to conduct the English Officer to another spot where he knew there were still some bodies.

Near the sign-post situated 57 kilometres on the Brussa-Adranos road, at the joining of the rivers Kourd-Dere and Dib-Dere, in a very dry spot, there were two ditches about 10 metres one from the other and of a depth of about one metre and of a length three to five metres full of human bones.

E.—DISTRICT OF MAKRI

Official records received from Makri in Asia Minor confirm that the situation of the Christian populations is deplorable and quite hopeless. One does not see any more men in the streets or young people above the ages of 12 to 15 years, except a few inhabitants of Moughla, whom the Turks brought to Makri to make them work.

All the male population of Moughla has been transported to the interior. Citizens belonging to the higher classes,

merchants, Doctors, Lawyers, Literary men, all people well known and enjoying considerable consideration, have been dispersed in the different towns and villages of the interior. Many of them have died from the bad treatment and hardships. The Greek women remained in the town to serve as slaves to the Turks.

Here is a list of the deported persons from Makri during the period under review.

Paul Koufoloukas; Const Cremydas, Kyriakos Kremydas. Milt. Paulidis, Georges Papadoulis, Christo Kodji-bouyoglou, Georges Panigiris, Michael Ch Antoniou, John Chr. Savas, Demetre Sronghylis, Haji J. Constantinidis, Catina Platonos, Moussaïou Stamatiadis, Lucas Papayanis, Michael E. Stamatiou, Paul Sites, Jean Pavlakiou, Georges Coloupsousis, Georges, Politis, Kyriakos Sarafis.

CONFIRMATIONS

Now here are some irrefutable proofs regarding the preceding subject. Doctor Yowell, a member of the American Relief Committee, recently returned from Kharpout, has since his arrival at Constantinople submitted a long report to the High Commissioner of the United States. In this report without the slightest personal preconception and in a manner most impartial he reveals the following:

He commenced his work last October at Kharpout. In the month of March he was arrested and expelled without any reason. After his expulsion the Kemalist Authorities arrested three of his colleagues of whom two were ladies. All were badly treated in the most brutal fashion and that in spite of the fact that the Mussulmans

themselves had profitted by the humanitarian work of the American Mission. Encouraged by the hesitation of the Allies at the moment of the Armistice and later, the Turks became more cruel and more intolerant regarding the minorities.

Mr Yowell insists on this point and emphasises that if a Foreign Power does not hasten to bring help to the minorities the last chapter of the gory history of the Christians of Asia Minor has been written.

Further along Mr. Yowell says :

*A great number of Christian refugees who were seriously ill were thrown without pity into the streets and were condemned to perish. The Childrens' hospital has been without any reason at all closed by the Turks. Numbers of houses in which the refugees had hidden were occupied by Turkish Commanders. The Armenians of this region were reduced to a state of slavery. They had not the right to travel neither to go from one town to another.

»I found myself compelled to return to some Armenians in America the sum of 75,000 Dollars that they had sent to pay for the expenses of their parents in Anatolia.

»All the goods of the deported Christians were confiscated. The Christians were not allowed to bring any complaints before the Tribunals. A new law recently in force deprived the Christians of the right to succeed to the goods of their parents other than the father or brother.

»The Christians were put in prison for the sole purpose of forcing their parents to pay a sum of money. The Christian women were shut up in the harems without having the right to plead before the Tribunals.

»The Turkish Public Officials who for five months had not received their salaries, declared openly that the only way to get money is to confiscate the goods of the Christians.

The hardships of the Christians who were deported from the regions of the front continued. Of the 30,000 Greeks who left Sivas, five thousand were dead before arriving at Kharpout; 2,000 died during the winter at Kharpout, and 3000 died along the roadside east of Kharpout. Stations of help by the Relief Committee have been established along the road Sivas Kharpout-Diarkir to give immediate help to the refugees. Two thirds of the deported Greeks are women and children. The Turks have the right to choose the most beautiful amongst them who are deported. If, says Mr Yowell openly, the Americans leave Anatolia, the Christians who still live will disappear.

The bodies of the victims are left lying along the roadside, and are devoured by the dogs, wolves, and birds of prey. The principal causes of the death of these unfortunate people are hunger, dysentery, and typhus. The Turkish authorities say openly, that they have, after deliberation, decided to exterminate all the Greek race.

Their acts are sufficient proof of their intentions. At this moment the massacres and deportations have recommenced along the whole stretch of Asia Minor from the ports of the Black Sea to the Oriental coast of Anatolia.

This, gentlemen, is the picture of horror which exists in the Turkish State by the intensification and execution of the plan to exterminate the Christians. It is the picture drawn by Mr Yowell. To emphasise the absolute exactitude and the concrete and irrefutable character of these information the Director of the American Relief Committee has sent the following letter to the «Times».

«I am ready at any time to act as witness in front of no matter what Commission that is charged with opening an enquiry regarding the situation in Anatolia. The Turks contradict and oppose the denunciations, which are published, and which is only what one would expect.»

(signed) YOWELL,
Major Director American
Committee at Kharpout.

Here is, gentlemen, the acknowledgment of the facts that we have been able to collect and which I may say, are authentic. From what has already been said you can imagine what is going on in the other Provinces of Asia Minor, where no foreigner even penetrates. You can imagine what must be the persecutions which are practised against the Greeks and Armenians. So as to allow you to draw the more easily by analogy your conclusions, I have but to tell you that when we were in London last winter the representatives of the Armenian nation insisted that in the Armenian provinces situated at the east and south east of Trebizonde, and in which the Armenians were more than hundreds of thousands, even perhaps 1.000.000, after the massacres and deportations there remained but a few hundreds, not even one thousand. Besides the martyrs, who have died under the reign of Abdul Hamid, and during the course of the regime of the «Young Turks», which followed that of Abdul Hamid, this unhappy nation according to the information which was given to us from a competent source, has lost 1,400,000 men by massacres and deportations committed from 1914 to 1921.

This state of affairs could not help but move all sensible souls, and call to one's mind the words which were recently said in the British Parliament, and of which a translation has been distributed to the members of this Assembly. But, gentlemen, this situation gives rise to another question which insisently calls for attention. It is the question to know if, after this sad experience borne by the Christians, it is permitted that Christian population remain under the rule and domination of the Turks. If it has been found just to protect by special dispositions the minorities of the country endowed with an equitable administration, and which can from a point of view of culture and justice rival the most advanced country, one must naturally ask oneself what should be the regime which must be put in force there where barbarism and atrocities

have attained the degree of savagery of which you have heard the horrible manifestation.

If the sending by the three Great Allied Powers of a Commission of enquiry to the centres where the massacres and persecution are taking place is realized, one has the right to hope that the teachings of the past will contribute to find the correct decisions which will be taken regarding the measures to be adopted with a view to once and for all ending a situation which constitutes a stigma on contemporary history.

After the Kemalists' slanders one has asked for a special commission of enquiry to be sent to the country that we occupy in Asia Minor. We are quite ready to open our doors wide to this Commission. We know what the impressions will be that it will carry away with it from an impartial examination of the work of the Greek Administration, even there, where there are still military operations, and still more in the zone placed under the administration of the High Commissioner for Greece at Smyrna.

On the eve of the regulating of the affairs of the Orient we have, all of us, who have fought side by side during the period of the Great War, the obligation to not abandon the Christians of Asia Minor, who are exposed to the scimitar, of the Kemalists. Greece has not spared any sacrifice to continue, she alone has fought with the price of the blood of her children, she has delivered three millions of Mussulmans and Christians. I emphasise this point to make it known that the Greek military administration has given liberty to the Mussulmans that she has delivered from the forced recruiting and the operations of Angora, and she has given them the means to live peacefully and continue their work.

A factor of civilisation in the Near East, where for more than three thousand years Greece has enriched this country by its spirit of culture, profoundly conscious of

its high mission it could not leave the work it has so long laboured at. Its recent military activity has as a result given it the occupation of a considerable part of Asia Minor and supports the reasons which inspired the ideals for which the Great War was waged.

That the opinion of the public, which so revolted against the horrible atrocities, should come to support the efforts of Greece, as Greece will always by the bravery and watchfulness of its children give and still give again, is undeniable.

SPEECH DELIVERED BY A. MATESIS ESQR

Delegate for Attica and Beotia.

During a certain period of the Great War, Russian military forces entered Trebizonde victoriously. The struggle between the Russians and the Turks commenced many centuries ago, and owing to the hatred that had developed between the two Nations from the incidents of the war, the discipline of the Russian army was very far from being desirable. The Mussulman population of Trebizonde became panic stricken, and were exposed to great danger — these dangers were averted by the intervention of the Greek civilising element. The influence exerted by the Greek authorities and its Church over the political and military Russian authorities was such as to form as safeguard over the entire Mussulmān population against any Russian aggressions. The Mussulmans of the Pontus were put under the protection of the Greek Church and its Society. A similar statement can be made regarding all the districts within the Ottoman Empire occupied by the Russian army. This attitude taken up by the Greek element towards their Turkish fellow citizens was reported at the time with expressions of gratitude in all the official documents of the Turkish administration.

And let us now consider in what way the Greeks were compensated for their kindness. Let us dwell a little longer on the affairs of Pontus. The arrangement for the total extermination of Turkey, which had some time back been planned and put into execution, was intended to be applied also to the unfortunate Christians in the Pontus district, and was made to serve both as a revenge for the failure of the Turkish army in their fight against the Greeks, and as an attempt to show to the world in general that no Greeks existed in the Pontus — a measure carefully thought out as a future protection.

At a previous sitting of this Assembly, one year ago, when there were exposed to our Colleagues here the dreadful sufferings of the Greek populations in Thrace and in Asia Minor, the tragedy of the Pontus was partly revealed to us. It is not my present intention to enter into the details of those events. Part of them were placed before you by the Right Honourable, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other colleagues have the intention to discuss them in this Assembly after me. I have stated that the plan for the organised destruction of the Pontus had long ago been worked out and put into effective operation. Its application was entrusted to Osman Agha, a notorious Turkish ex-mayor of Kerasund, and subsequently a leader in the Kemālist army. The long list of his misdeeds began in 1919. At some period during that year a lawyer, Pantelis Hermides, was killed in the centre of the market place of Ksrasund, and a few miles outside of the town, another lawyer from Tredizonde, Gregorius Moutsides, was also killed. The lawyers were an easy prey for the Turks in the countries ruled by the latter. This system of murder continued throughout the year. Doctor Thomaidēs, his father and Captain Jasonides were also killed. It was when Osmān Agha undertook a tour of the villages of the district that he ordered Bishop Gervasius Sourmelides to be beaten until his blood flowed.

In 1920, whilst the lawyer Charalambos Elefteriades and Osman Agha were walking together in the streets of Kerasund, they were met by armed men, who, at a sign from the latter, arrested the Greek lawyer and executed him in front of the Town Hall. The tragic circumstances of the condemnation to death and the subsequent execution of three notables of the town of Kerasund will stand out as unique in the history of Crimes. A Mussulman woman denounced a man named Panayotis for having assaulted her three years previously, and on this sole accusation against the name alone, three notables of the

town who happened to be named Panayoti, namely Panayoti Seitanides, Panayotis Kylloglou, and Panayoti Tsilingiris, were arrested and executed.

The Right Honourable, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated the names of the condemned people as reported in the Turkish Press. The newspaper «Ehali» of Amisos, published the names of 63 people who had been sentenced to death and were executed. Amongst the list of names we note three more lawyers, Elefterios Terzimakouglou; Laurentius Taoudjoglou; and Ghianco Efendi Jordanides five Doctors, Haralampos Gregoriades; Paul Kaphaeloglou; Paris Hamladji; Abraham Chrysothides Adamantius Ardjoumanides, and Anastassius Tektadjoglou: three druggists, Theologos Demetriades; Chrystakis Christophorides, and Alexander Ordouoglou. From amongst the Journalists, Basil Papadopoulos was chosen as the victim. Others killed were Jordan Matemdjolou, the Vicar of Kavuk, Constantines Constantinides, the subadministrator of the two Bankers, Constantine Papazoglou and Sophocles Antavaloglou with the clerk of the former, Nicholas Jordanoglou; Paul Papadopoulos, departmental Manager in the Ottoman Bank; Themistocles Jordanides the school—master; the Bankers and Merchants, Gregorios Gregoriades, Alexander Ihimroglou, Theogenes Efendjoglou, Savvas Antonoglou, Elias Panagiotoglou, Pericles Nicoliades, Socrates Skenteroglou, Themistokles Antonoglou, Temistokles Kokinou, George Pyroglou, Nickolas Theologlou, Hadjis Tsinegoglou, Demetrios Alexiades, Themistokles Xydias, Perikles Kouzoudjak, John Mavrides, Anestis Melides, George Tsevousoglou, Constantine, Voudouroglou, Mourad Tselemidjoglou, Antonios Hadji—Antonoglou, Antonios Tsinoglou, Pantelis Ardjoglou, and the following artisans Alecoa Haralamboglou, Theodore Yannoglou, Panayotis Kandylianaptis, Constantine Hadji—Haralamboglou, Constantine Tsinekgrou, Christo Hadji—Georgoglou, Stavros

Kouyouinjoglou, George Savaglou, Panayotis Lazaroglou, Haralampos Karakazoglou, Demetre Papazoglou, Mildiadés Hadj—Savvas, the Bishop Euthymious, the Janitor of the Metropolitan Church, and A. Kollaros, all died in prison.

P. Kourtides. I have not heard the Right Honourable, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, mention the fact that Kemal had passed a vote whereby every war prisoner from Eastern Thrace was to be executed.

A. Matesis. These men had not risen in arms. They formed the notability of the districts of Kerasund, Amissos, and Baffra, and were peaceful citizens. I have stated these names singly in order that the list may be included in that already reported in the official short-hand minutes of this National Assembly, and may also be inscribed in the bloodstained Pantheon of Greek sacrifice and martyrdom, in imperishable tribute and memory. I shall not speak on the subject of the destruction of Baffra. The history of the world gives no other tragedy to equal the one that occurred in Bafira. In the village of Erikli 535 men were shut up by the Turks in a Church, and knew beforehand the fate that awaited them. Whilst for their execution the Priest Papayanni read to them their own funeral service, which they followed in silence and in sorrow.

K. Konstantopoulos. Do you permit an interruption?

A. Matesis. Yes.

N Konstantopoulos. Then, these facts ought to be circulated broadcast to reach the ears of all European nations in detail. It is my earnest request that the Government should utilise all means to make them so known.

E. Hadjidakis. They already know such details very well. Another similar drama occurred in 1914, which bears the testimony of foreigners and of our own people.

A. Matesis. As the Right Honourable, the Minister for Foreign Affairs stated, 360 villages and 11 towns in the district of Amissos have fallen into ruin. Amongst the tra-

gic events of that district I should particularly like to quote the case of Nicholas Cosmides, a well known tobacco merchant, who, having been arrested together with his son and foreseeing the fate that awaited his boy, shot him, thereby imitating our forefathers, in order to save him from outrage, after which he killed himself.

What justification did the Government of Kemal make for the so ruthless acts. At the commencement they endeavoured to hide them from the outer world, but when it became impossible to have them hidden any longer, Mustapha Kemal invented an excuse — and I ask you gentlemen, to give close attention to the impudence with which he answered the communiqué submitted to him by the three Allied Commissioners in Constantinople in connection with the atrocities that occurred in the districts of the Pontus. The document of the Argora Government was dated the 15th of February, 1922. and it reads:

«The Greeks of the district of the Pontus have risen against their country. They have been armed with cannon, machine guns and quick firing guns and have fought against the Turkish army. They have supplied arms to the Christian population in Anatolia. The Greek have attacked Moslem villages and killed their inhabitants. If such things happened in the countries of the Allied Nations what would be the measures to which their Governments would have resorted against the rioters? Our Government has simply suppressed this movement, turned against its resistance and its safety, with the least possible sacrifice».

This is how Mustapha Kemal, the protégé of certain Press centres of Western Europe, and the object of the attention of certain eminent European politicians incites, in a bitterly ironical manner, the European Governments themselves, who were so simple as to address their remarks in connection with the Turkish atrocities, to him. But this argument of Kemal that he was endeavouring to suppress a revolution, is his usual contention.

Similar acts have been applied to Attalia since July 1921. The Kemalist organisation has arrested the Greek

Notables of Attalia, numbering some 680. The order for their arrest was presented to them whilst they were still in bed, and they were compelled to rise and start immediately for the interior. The fate of the greater part of them is at present unknown. And these things occurred whilst the Italian cruiser «Duilio» was stationed in the port of that city. This cruiser, it is stated, turned its guns against the city and threatened to bombard it if the atrocities committed against the Christians did not cease. But the Turks knew very well to what extent they had to fear European threat. At that time, Yousouf Kemal, the Angora Foreign Minister, spread throughout the world radiograms stating untruthfully that the Christian populations had risen against the Nationalist regime at the instigation of the Greek Government. It would be interesting to read an article concerning Aidin, published last summer in the Smyrna newspapers, written by Mr Mills, the Correspondent of the Associated Press of America, reading as follows:—

«Aidin has at present been transformed into a cemetery. Hundreds of Greek women, children and, priest victims of Turkish madness and cruelty, are lying in nameless graves. The broken beams of the thousand of houses destroyed by Turkish savagery remain only silent witnesses of the martyrdom of the people. White bones are lying amongst the ruins and the dust, dumb proofs which touch every human heart. A great many victims were burnt alive. In the Metropolitan church there can still be found traces of the burnt bodies of the Priests in front of the Lord's altar. The very soul of the Pilgrim aches at the sight of the large blood stains that cover the church floor. The Lord's sanctuary has been transformed into a slaughter house».

All these facts help to prove that the plan for the extermination of the Armenians, the successful application of which offered a means of training to the Constantinople Government, is now perfected and directed against the Greeks in a more systematic manner. But it must not be forgotten that the Turkish plans do not merely seek the extermination of the native Christian inhabitants of Turkey but have a wider object, aiming at the removal of all fo-

reigners from every part of Turkey, at the cutting of every bond tying Turkey to foreigners, and to obtain this, they are endeavouring to prevent any foreigners from staying, temporarily or permanently, in Turkey.

A Delegate. So that there should be no witnesses.

A. Matesis. There is another beyond that, namely, the desire to exclude from the country any foreign interests imposing themselves upon Turkey. They desire to break up all moral and material connections existing between the Turkish nation and the European nations. Whilst in Smyrna a few weeks ago, I collected information from several local sources, certain points of which as they confirm my previous statements, I think it expedient to bring before this Assembly.

Some French war prisoners of Kemal, after having been freed, were decorated by the French Government for Military bravery. A distinguished Officer amongst them and a few others, following his example, returned the medals, saying that as they had been compelled to act as they did, they did not deserve the decoration. Such admirable conduct does honour to them who, by their answer, proved themselves to be loyal soldiers and men of honour. It is stated that those valiant sons of France have not returned to their country yet, so as not to offer any opportunity to their country and to other European war prisoners received from the Kemalists. Another distinguished Frenchman, holding a high political office in Smyrna, a strong opponent of the Greek occupation of Smyrna, received a commission in Cilicia after its evacuation. Regarding this man I have obtained reliable information that he wrote to friends in Smyrna saying that he had changed his opinions after what he had seen in Cilicia, and that the presence of the Greek army constitutes the only guarantee for the existence of Europeans in Asiatic Turkey.

Vasilakakis. The man in question is the ex-French Commissioner, Laport.

Matesis. From information which I have obtained from French people who had come into contact with Turkish Officers of high rank, the Turks consider that they have scored a victory over the French. This idea of the Turks fills our hearts with sorrow, for we are the first people after the French, who are anxious about the prestige, the authority, and the greatness of the French nation. We, as a Nation, have a long series of traditions that bind us to the French people.

We, who exist, and shall for ever exist as a free and independant nation are more than any other nation concerned with the honour, the prestige, and the greatness of France.

Rodokanakis. It is a question of the French idea which is not portrayed by Bouillon.

A. Matesis. My Honourable Colleagues, I have stated I think all I ought to have stated from this Tribune. The thing, which Paris, in supporting the policy of negotiating with Kemal, failed to look into, and the whole world failed to realise, was the danger from the complete state of barbarity to which Asia Minor, would be reduced—the danger of the loss of accomplishments that it had taken five centuries to establish. The shortsightedness of Western Europe in the 15th century when she permitted Turkish militarism to become established in Asia Minor may be justified by the political division which existed in Europe at that time and which made any resistance againts the then powerful and austerey militant Turkey impossible.

Koussoulas. The pressing needs of humanity were no so widely known then.

A. Matesis. There existed, however, something even in those days that has carried through to the present day—the spirit of mutual responsibility of Christianity—which idea was powerful enough to unite the European powers against the common foe that invaded Europe and threatened its very security. But, as I have stated, Europe was

not sufficiently prepared in those days, whilst today Turkey could not oppose any serious onslaught should the European powers unite in their efforts against her. Even a moral union alone would be capable of suppressing any resistance from such force as would endeavour to bring matters to a finality. And this union must be effected not only in the name of christianity and humanity, but also in the cause of the great interests of all other nations, indeed of the entire world, it is to the interests of all that the vast regions of Asia Minor now under Turkish rule be opened to civilisation and production and the large ways of communication be secured for the advancement of humanity in general.

All politicians and economists are at present investigating the means of fighting the difficulties presented by life, the high cost of all commodities, and the general abnormal financial conditions prevailing which might mean very serious and terrific social upheavals. And whilst such serious subjects occupy the minds of the nations there remains unsolved the question of Asia Minor, whose participation in European civilisation would add to the universal, and particularly to European social economy, a new factor that, having become dimmed during the last few centuries, has not been included in the present chapter of human progress. But how is that to be effected? How is Asia Minor to contribute to the world's production if the people native to its soil do not become enlightened by the spirit of contemporary idealism, if they are not freed from the moral and material chains which the tyranny of Bosphorus, exercising at the moment its pressure from the Angora head, has wrought in order to envelope all the people of Asia Minor within the iron cages of slavery and retrogression? Pious christian people send christian workers to the ends of the earth, amongst the most savage people, to undertake the work of increasing the total number of christians and of spreading God's word. The European nations support

this work, believing that nations cannot reach civilisation unless they first become of the Christian Faith. And the names of these missionaries are placed amongst these of the benefactors of humanity. On the other hand, gentlemen there exist Christian Governments which, though they cannot approve, shut their eyes to the criminal acts by which tens and hundreds of thousands of Christians have been slaughtered or otherwise exterminated by religious fanatics.

But new fighters for the cause of the Christians have appeared in the country of Britain, not merely in the name of christianity, but in the name of justice and liberty, whilst from the ever Eternal City, «St Peter's Throne», the voice of the ever-vigilant defender of Christianity and Love has been heard. Protests uttered by People of such renown and authority are intended to arouse humanity, and cannot fail to do so.

I believe it to be the duty of this Assembly, which has the honour to represent the Hellenic Nation, to address their deepest gratitude to all those who, turning aside for the time being from the interests directed by political questions and who opposing international views, have not hesitated to raise voices of protest, and to appeal to humanity and justice. And it is equally our duty to address solemn declarations to the Governments, the Senates, and even to the people of all civilised nations against the abominable work carried on by the Turks for the extermination of the Greek and Armenian nations. These protests, I think, gentlemen, should be extended to our Armenian brothers with whom we so closely co-operated during the centuries of grandeur and glory, at the time when the great Greek Dynasty by the Bosphorus had opened its arms to all people of Asia and of the Greek Peninsula, inviting into it all those whose aim it was to reach out in the endeavour to further

shed in Panormos. in its issue of 28th April of this year, says: «The Kemalist gangs have slaughtered English, Greek and Armenian people. In the district of Samsun detachments of regular and irregular soldiers, led by Osman Agha, attacked the city of Samsoun and killed the Christians, among whom were also some Britishers, after forcing them from their homes. The people slaughtered numbered about 1000. Priests and teachers were burnt alive within the schools and the churches. The bodies of the children killed in the streets were afterwards found cut into pieces».

An appeal of Ali Sami Bey, Editor of the above-mentioned newspaper, was published in the issue of 15th April. This appeal was addressed to England and America and read as follows: «You, the nations renowned for the administration of justice, what do you say about the abominable results of the non-settlement of the Near East Question? One hundred and fifty Christians have recently been slaughtered and six hundred more killed with the butt ends of the guns.

«We are in the twentieth century. Mustapla Kemal and his men are undefined criminals. You, the so-called civilized France, behold the massacres of Samsoun! Your assistance to the Kemalists constitutes the greatest crime. You have been the cause of the disappearance of thousands of Greeks and Armenians beneath the feet of these criminals. You, Mr. Poincaré, should be aware that the responsibility for the extermination of hundreds of thousands of Greeks and Armenians in Pontus and Cilicia falls greatly upon France, whose alliance with Kemal has given rise to these atrocities. History will record in black letters this injustice committed by France. In the name of all my fellow-countrymen, I protest against this wrong».

(Signed) Ali Sami.

Editor of the Newspaper «Adalet».

Constantinople

The newspaper «Peyam Seyam Sabah» in its issue of the 3rd April says the following:

«For Greece to consent to the evacuation of Anatolia there should be offered guarantees for the rights of the Greek Christians in these territories. But the cruel and ruthless treatment of these people by the Angora Government is well-known».

The Angora newspaper «Hakimyer—i—Nillyé» a semi-official organ of Kemal, published an article under the title «A Hymn to Hatred» which ends with the following words: «And, you, the Army of the Creator and of Right, by the killing of every Greek you are throwing down one by one the corner stones of the British Empire. For God's sake, continue your killing; for the love of your country, continue your massacres; in the name of mourning humanity continue your slaughters; for the salvation of the world and the peace of Hell, continue your murders. Turn around and see; is there any other power besides England assisting Greece, and has England any other friend than Greece?»

This article was also published in the «Manchester Guardian» of 1st May 1922.

The «Courrier de Genève» of 18th March says:

«The atrocities committed by the Turks in Pontus are beyond description. Hundreds of thousands of Christians were transported to the interior without food or clothing. Most of them were killed on the way. The houses and the fortures of the victims were plundered. Entire villages were burnt to the ground. The women and children suffered the greatest tortures. When are these abominations to stop? Will not Europe heed the cries of agony and despair of these unfortunate people?»

«The crimes committed by the Turks, which have been avowed and approved by Bekir Sami, in the National As-

sembly of Angora, are such as not to permit any further showing of magnanimity towards the guilty. New trials of that sort would constitute the most abominable conspiracy against these unfortunate people. Christianity can no longer stand such an anatomy of the living organism of an entire nation».

The Turk Ali Hilmi, editor of the ottoman newspaper »Ferda» of Adana, in a letter published in the paper «Yeni» of Adana of 4th April 1922, and republished by the «Echo Nationale» of 3td May of this year, describes the Turkish atrocities against the Christians whom he calls the innocent victims of the sanguinary acts of the Turks»-

I wish to add thāt the Act 7 of April 1922, promulgated in the Turkish paper «Ikdam» of 1st May 1922, provided that «all real and personal property of all people away from or leaving the country for any reason whatever either military or political, shall be confiscated by the Government and offered to public auction». Thus, while the men were slaughtered or deported, their fortunes were confiscated on the pretext of the application of the law,

ALLIED TESTIMONIES

All the Allied Powers have, by official reports and declarations, similarly acknowledged and avowed the Turkish crimes and cruelties. Thus by a report signed in Paris on 19th December 1916, and submitted through Mr. Briand to the Government of the United States, on 10 January 1917 it is acknowledged that «the Allied Powers are fully conscious that they are not seeking their own self interests but the salvation and the independence of the people as well as the establishment of justice for the good of humanity, and

have as their chief object the freeing of the People under the sanguinary Turkish tyranny».

Mr. Lloyd George, speaking on the 29th June, 1917, in Glasgow, said among other things: «Mesopotamia, a source of civilization in former as well as in the present times, has been changed under the Turkish rule into a desert. It is not possible that it should return under the appalling Turkish tyranny». Of Armenia he said; «a country watered with blood of an innocent people, slain by their Turkish guardians whose duty it was to protect them.».

President Wilson in the 12th of his fourteen articles, by virtue of which the United States came out of neutrality and participated in the European War, says: «The supposition that other people can co-habitate with Turkey is false. The Turkey of the Young Turks is equally and perhaps more barbarous and destructive than the Turkey of Abdul Hamid. It is in the interest of peace that the Turkish authority over foreign nationalities should cease.»

Sir Edward Grey, in a report addressed to Sir Francis Elliot, dated 23rd January 1915, speaks in about the same tone, and similar things were said by Mr. Lloyd George in his speech delivered in the House of Commons on 29th April 1920.

TESTIMONIES BY FRENCHMEN

Mr. Poincaré in an address delivered on 27th June 1919 before President Wilson at the Champs Elysés, acknowledged the Turkish atrocities, while Mr Clemenceau in a communiqué dated 25th June 1919, to Damad Ferid Pasha President of the Ottoman Mission, says in a better tone:

» Your Excellency should not seek to atone or lessen the importance of the crimes of which your Government has been guilty. For the massacres committed exceed all others recorded in history. And although you maintain that the Turkish Government alone is responsible for them and not the Turkish people your treatment of all foreign subjects in Turkey corresponds to them», and he added» the Turk has caused the destruction of all places through which he has passed».

Mr. Milerand, in a communiqué to the Turkish representatives, says among other things: «The Allies see the opportunity of putting an end to the Turkish rule over other people, the atrocities of which have overtaken and hurt the conscience of humanity during the last twenty years. The Armenians were slaughtered in a very barbarous manner. It is estimated that the number of Armenians massacred by the Ottoman Government since 1914 is 800.000, while 200.000 Greeks and another 200.000 Armenians, men, women, and children have been deported. The Ottoman Government has not only failed in its duty of protecting its subjects from criminal or other arbitrary attacks but, — it is a fact well founded and confirmed — has itself organized and directed this most savage destruction of the population for which it should have acted as their guardian. For these reasons the Allies are not disposed to allow Christian population to remain any longer under the misrule of the Turk, these Christian population being more numerous than the Turks, and can in no case agree to any modification of the Treaty whereby Thrace and Asia Minor, in which the Turkish element is in the minority, are detached from Turkey.

Mr. A. Briand in a communiqué dated 6th November 1915, addressed to Senator Barthou, in connection with the Armenian massacres, says among other things: «The Government of the French Republic stigatmizes the crimes

committed by the Young Turks and delivers to the judgement of the human conscience the monstrous arrangement for the extermination of an entire race, whose only guilt has been the love of progress and civilization.

Mr. Balfour, the British representative to the League of Nations in a communiqué addressed to the latter on 22nd November, 1920 says: «The crimes of Mustapha Kemal are condemned by any humanely judging tribunal». He further adds, «Mustapha Kemal is a brigand chief and he is therefore entirely deaf to any appeal which the League of Nations might address to him»,

The American Near East Relief Unit, in a report submitted to Mr. Bes. Bristol, High Commissioner in Constantinople, on 11th July, 1921, protests against the massacres committed in Samsun (a statement thereof was published in «Le Temps» of 11th July 1921) and describes one of them carried out on 23rd May, as follows:

«In the village of Ata, two hours distant from Samsun the Turks gathered 3500 Greek Christians with their wives and children, and, after having surrounded them, set fire all around. All were burnt, except those who, having attempted to make their escape, were killed. In this manner there were destroyed by fire 50 villages in the Amisoss district with all their inhabitants».

Earl Winterton, undersecretary for India, in the sitting of the House of Commons of 4th May, last, said the following:

«The British Government is in possession of valid proofs concerning the deportations of Greek men, women, and children. These deportations have been carried out with extreme barbarity, all protests of the Government addressed to the Angora National Assembly having failed about a cessation of the persecutions».

Mr. Chamberlain, in the sitting of the House of Commons of 10 May last, confirmed the information contributed by the American M. Yowell, according to which, of the 30,000 Greeks who were deported to Kharpout, 5000 died on way and another 5000, as soon as they reached Kharpout. The children of these deportees were abandoned without any assistance whatever, while their wives, daughters were carried off by the Turks».

In the sitting of 15th May, Mr. Chamberlain confirmed the news that the Turks have killed 16,000 Greeks and have carried off the women and maidens to the harems».

In the sitting of the House of Commons of 17th May last, Mr. Chamberlain said: «The Turkish cruelties against the Christian minorities have been carried on for seven years. The Government has reasons for believing that about half a million Christians have been deported by the Turks during the war, a great number of whom have disappeared under circumstances of unspeakable barbarity. I cannot therefore admit that the Turkish cruelties are due to the landing of the Greek Army in Smyrna».

In the sitting of 18th May, he said: «There can be no excuses offered for the summary and barbaric deportation of women and children which have recently taken place in Pontus».

Mr. Harmsworth, the Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, in the sitting of the House of Commons of 22nd May last, said: «There was received from the English Consul in Beirut a report referring to the passing through that city of 20,000 deportees, mostly women and children, led eastwards in a half naked state and exposed to the cold of the snow covered roads».

CONFIRMATION BY FRENCHMEN

The French Mr. Nicol, in his book «The Allies and the Eastern Crisis», describing the dreadful sufferings of the Christians, writes on page 60 the following: «The union of the Allies, representing the most powerful countries, has created the strongest diplomatic frontier that ever existed, but has not succeeded in saving the life of more than 500.000 victims, or in preventing the persecution directed against more than 2.000.000 souls».

On page 64 we read the following: The Christian population have wept over thousands and thousands of victims. 815 Greek communities from Bosphorus to Trebizond representing 400.000 persons, have been the victims of Turkish atrocities. All the Greek villages, 1135 churches and 950 schools have been fired on. The number of victims by far exceeds 300.000, without including those who have sought refuge on the mountains and whose death may be considered certain».

As soon as the Assembly was constituted in December 1921, Fethi Bey, the Angora Foreign Minister, said in the sitting of 30th December 1921: «effective measures have been taken for the deportation of all males between the ages of 18 and 50». A decision thereon has been immediately passed by the Assembly, and he added: «after these measures have been put into effect perfect quiet reigns in Amassia and the surrounding districts.»

METHODS EMPLOYED


Now, Honourable Members, let us examine the methods employed in the extermination of the thousands of Christians who were alleged by the Turks to be only removed

to the interior, but who in reality were murdered in the most cruel manner. In the first place, they were deprived of their clothing and shoes; then they were compelled to march from one place to another, covering at a time a distance of from 50 to 60 miles and wandering over snow-covered hills and mountains, without food or clothing. Soon after the first destination was reached, they were ordered to march another 50 or 60 miles, then interrupting for a while their endless march, they were again compelled to advance until the exhaustion and the hardship had wiped out the greater part of them. By hundreds they died on the wayside from the fatigue and epidemics while the beatings by their guards completed the exterminating work of those sad pilgrimages. Dead and half-dead were buried or thrown together into wells or ditches, thus rendering any escape impossible.

Honourable Members, I think that the Ottoman and other of foreigners testimonies submitted to you on this occasion, as well as the affirmations of the entire European Press, which had on one or two occasions occupied itself with the anti-Christian persecution, offer sufficient and clear proof that the Greek populations of Thrace and Asia Minor were destroyed and exterminated after being made to suffer unspeakable and dreadful martyrdom, unparalleled in the history of humanity.

And it is the duty of Assembly to denounce to the civilized world and to protest in the most vivid terms against the indescribable crimes which resulted in the extermination of hundreds of thousand of our brothers on the only pretext that they belonged to the Christian faith. The extermination of the Christians has been but the application of the programme worked out for the replacement of the Cross by the Crescent. It is a question of that, and that alone. That the persecution was directed only against the Armenians and the Greeks is explained by the fact that the former were deprived of a free country and the

Greek nation intimidated them less than other powers. However they never missed an opportunity to apply their murderous hands against other Europeans also. The Greek National Assembly, representing the voice of the entire Greek race, has a duty to perform, to protest strongly, in a stentorian voice that might be heard to the ends of the civilized world, against the dreadful sufferings of a race the only crime of which has been the love of progress and civilization, and to which humanity owes its lights.



SMANOGILIO
MEGARDO